CONFERENCE ON DISARMAMENT

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NOTE VERBALE DATED 14 JUNE 1996 FROM THE PERMANENT MISSION OF CHILE ADDRESSED TO THE SECRETARIAT OF THE CONFERENCE ON DISARMAMENT TRANSMITTING A COPY OF THE OFFICIAL STATEMENT ISSUED BY THE GOVERNMENT OF CHILE ON THE OCCASION OF THE DETONATION OF A FURTHER NUCLEAR DEVICE BY THE PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF CHINA ON 8 JUNE 1996

The Permanent Mission of Chile to the Conference on Disarmament presents its compliments to the secretariat of the Conference on Disarmament and has the honour to attach, for distribution as an official document of the Conference, a copy of the official statement issued by the Government of Chile on the occasion of the detonation of a further nuclear device by the People's Republic of China on 8 June 1996.

Official communiqué

The Government of Chile expresses its most forceful rejection of the detonation of a further nuclear device by the People's Republic of China on 8 June 1996.

At the same time, it has taken note with the greatest concern of the Chinese Government's announcement that it plans to conduct another explosion before September 1996, after which date it would apply a moratorium on nuclear testing.

The Government of Chile reiterates that these tests constitute a challenge to the non-proliferation principles and objectives proclaimed by the international community - China included - when agreeing to the extension of the Non-Proliferation Treaty, as well as those underpinning the negotiations on the comprehensive nuclear-test-ban treaty (CTBT) which are taking place in Geneva.

Chile maintains a consistent and resolute policy of rejecting tests that not only run counter to the sensitivities and hopes of international public opinion, which aspires to a total ban on nuclear weapons, but also create risks for the environment, health and global security which cannot be underestimated.

Consequently, in a spirit of friendship, the Government of Chile calls on the People's Republic of China to renounce the holding of these tests and to put into effect, here and now, the universal moratorium which it declares it is willing to implement in September.

Santiago, 10 June 1996